

## NAYS—59

Akaka	Dorgan	Murkowski
Baucus	Durbin	Murray
Bayh	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Bennett	Harkin	Obama
Biden	Hatch	Pryor
Bingaman	Inouye	Reed
Bond	Jeffords	Reid
Boxer	Johnson	Roberts
Burns	Kennedy	Salazar
Byrd	Kerry	Sarbanes
Cantwell	Kohl	Schumer
Carper	Landrieu	Shelby
Chambliss	Lautenberg	Smith
Clinton	Leahy	Specter
Cochran	Levin	Stabenow
Coleman	Lieberman	Stevens
Conrad	Lincoln	Talent
Dayton	Lott	Warner
Dodd	Menendez	Wyden
Domenici	Mikulski	

## NOT VOTING—1

Rockefeller

The amendment (No. 3617) was rejected.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. MURRAY. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise to discuss an amendment, filed by Senator NELSON of Florida and myself, joined by Senators LIEBERMAN, LAUTENBERG, KERRY our distinguished minority leader, that will provide serious resources, not just lipservice, to help us kick the oil addiction habit and put this country on a long-term path to real energy security. At a time when American families are spending exorbitant amounts to fill their cars and heat their homes, when this Nation is using ever increasing quantities of foreign oil, when our coastal communities are threatened by rising sea levels caused by global warming, we need a new approach. For the sake of our economy, our security, and our environment, we need to act now.

For years, this administration has promoted one course—more drilling. Instead of making the necessary and timely investments needed to push this country in the direction of a sustainable energy policy, the administration has beat one drum over and over again—drill, drill, drill. Drill in the Arctic, drill in our wilderness, drill off our beaches. This is not the way to kick our oil habit. The President claims to have seen the light, and now touts the virtues of efficiency and the importance of biofuels and renewable energy, and we applaud him. But he proposes to fund the Department of Energy's Efficiency and Renewables programs at the same level they were at in 2001, and he refuses to endorse higher mileage standards for automobiles, which are the same now as they were years ago.

Our energy situation has reached a critical point, and it is truly an emergency. Secretary of Energy Bodman even admitted on Sunday that we are facing a crisis. Gas prices are nearing their record highs, rising 41 cents in

the past month and over 54 cents since the Energy bill was signed into law last August. Many of the countries that we depend on for our oil are politically unstable or have unfriendly regimes. The Iranian situation, in particular, threatens to drive oil prices far higher. We can not allow our economy to be continually held hostage by the whims of OPEC.

This is not just about economic security. It is about national security. As former CIA Director James Woolsey testified before the Energy Committee, the hundreds of billions of dollars we send abroad each year to feed our oil addiction help to fund the very organizations that preach hatred for America.

We should have taken serious action years ago. The American people can afford to wait no longer. The Nelson-Menendez amendment provides the immediate funding we need to allow us to take control of our destiny and create a brighter, cleaner, and safer energy future for America. It provides \$3 billion for a wide range of efficiency, security, and research and development programs—programs the President talks about in glowing terms but does not propose to actually fund.

His 2007 budget barely includes half of the authorized funding for renewable energy research, and provides less than 2 percent for the incentives needed to encourage the installation and use of renewable energy. Our amendment would add \$50 million for renewable energy research and development in the Department of Energy, over \$100 million in renewable energy rebates for homes and small businesses, and \$200 million for the Department of Defense to do its part to meet the renewable energy goals set out by the President and in the law.

The administration has tried for years to portray efficiency as a vice, something that is totally inconsistent with the American way of life. Recently they have changed their tune, but not their actions. The President's budget actually cut energy efficiency programs by 13 percent. That simply astounds me. Few things are more effective for curbing our addiction to oil than becoming more energy efficient. A 2001 study by the National Academy of Sciences found that a \$7 billion investment in DOE energy efficiency programs had returned \$30 billion in benefits. That's better than 4 to 1. But the President cut efficiency programs by over a hundred million dollars. The weatherization program, which helps low-income families reduce fuel use and lower their energy bills, has been shown to provide well over \$3 of benefit for each \$1 spent. But the President proposed to slash that by nearly 30 percent.

Our amendment recognizes the tremendous benefit we as a Nation receive by becoming more efficient, and provides an additional \$300 million for energy efficiency programs, and another \$225 million for weatherization grants.

If we want to make a serious dent in our use of oil, however, we need to look at the transportation sector, which is responsible for two-thirds of our national oil consumption. While everyone seems to agree on the need to get more flex fuel and alternative-fuel vehicles on the road, and the urgency of producing cellulosic ethanol, the administration simply does not make the real financial commitment. But this amendment does. It provides \$150 million for vehicle research programs, \$350 million for the clean cities program, \$200 million for biomass research and development and \$250 million in production incentives for cellulosic fuels.

There are also provisions in this amendment to increase the reliability of our electricity grid, encourage the Federal Government to purchase alternative fuel vehicles, help improve the efficiency of aircraft, and much more. It is a large amendment because this is a large problem. Our economy, our environment, and our national security are all too important to be left to the best interests of OPEC and the giant oil companies. Skyrocketing gas prices have been a wake-up call for everyone, but even if we succeed in providing relief for American consumers, as my amendment last week would have done, we can not afford to go back to sleep on this issue. The American people expect us to get serious about our energy future, and they expect us to do it immediately. If we don't act now, when do we act?

So even though I fully recognize the rules of the Senate and understand the nature of the debate we are having today, I do believe we are in an emergent process as it relates to our energy independence, to our energy security, to giving consumers an opportunity for a break.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that any pending amendments be laid aside to call up amendment No. 3721 and that it be considered germane for the purposes of rule XXII.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, the order for recess notwithstanding, I be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

## THE ECONOMY

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, last week we had numbers that came out with respect to the economy. We also had testimony from the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board with respect to the economy. And as recently as yesterday we had some stunning numbers that came out telling us what is happening in the economy. I would like to review those very quickly for the Members of the Senate.